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Review of *The Greek Dark Ages*, by V. R. d'A. Desborough

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Professor Dow might have profited from an examination of the Anatolian syllabaries with which the Minoan-Mycenaean scripts were contemporary and from which they may have been derivative. One also wonders why "Cypro-Minoan" was given such short shrift, even though it belongs to the period after 1380 B.C. Finally, if one may touch briefly on the forbidden subject of the Phaestus Disk, it should be said that it is most encouraging to see that Professor Dow recognizes it as non-Minoan and probably Lycian in origin, an opinion held by me for almost thirty years. It is essential, however, in any description of the disk to mention the tangs that are attached to some of the characters since these probably indicate some connection with Hieroglyphic Hittite.

On the whole this first part of volume 2 must be rated as superior to volume 1, and it is hoped that the second part, when it appears, will show continued improvement.

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V. R. D'A. DESBOROUGH. *The Greek Dark Ages*. New York: St. Martin's Press. 1972. Pp. 388. \$14.95.

This book is, above all, a thorough and authoritative site-by-site survey of the material remains of the Greeks from around 1125 to around 900 B.C. The survey, divided into two parts—the early Dark Ages (1125–1050) and the late Dark Ages (1050–900)—comprises well over half the book. It is introduced by a short chapter on the preceding Mycenaean civilization, by way of contrast, and a longer one on the character of sub-Mycenaean pottery, the date for the creation of Protogeometric out of it, and the cause of this. The underlying intent of the early Dark Age survey is to delineate the extent of sub-Mycenaean pottery (basically central Greek mainland) as opposed to simply the continuation of late Mycenaean pottery and to suggest, on the basis of the nonceramic remains, an origin (northern) for the style. This suggestion is then defended in a short chapter. The late Dark Age survey that follows defines the periods of Protogeometric pottery and charts its spread from Athens to virtually the rest of the Greek world. The next section of the book treats the types of remains synoptically: settlement, tomb, sanctuary, pottery, dress ornament,

armor, and metal. The final section summarizes and fleshes out the historical patterns derived from the preceding analysis.

The survey is doubly important: as well as being the first thorough presentation of all types of evidence taken together for each site, it is an updating and filling out of the author's earlier magisterial studies in the field. The latter is apparently its primary purpose: "one thing that is reasonably certain is that it will be out of date ten years hence—but this is the fate of most works based on archaeology." The bibliography, by site, is particularly important in this respect. The former, a good idea in itself and one that might be extended to include the rather arbitrary splitting of the survey, allows the author's point about the northern intruders to be put most forcefully. This is important because A. M. Snodgrass, in his slightly earlier book on the same subject, has come to just the opposite conclusion: there is no "new" culture.

Clearly this is not a history of the Dark Ages but rather a collection and analysis of the materials (excluding the oral tradition) from which that history will have to be written. Also, this is not a book for beginners. Desborough repeatedly takes sides (for example, Ahhiyawa, cist graves) without leading us to the opposition. Consequently many of his statements may appear to float in a vacuum. Footnotes are little more than additions to the text. This is not to suggest that the author is dogmatic; countless times he warns us that his conclusions are hypothetical, and he is often unwilling even to hazard a guess. It is to his credit and our lasting benefit that he makes the hypotheses he does, and there is no doubt that they will, as he hoped, "lead others to deeper research."

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OLIVIER MASSON and MAURICE SZNYCER. *Recherches sur les Phéniciens à Chypre*. (Centre de Recherches d'Histoire et de Philologie de la IV^e Section de l'École Pratique des Hautes Études. Second Series, Hautes études orientales, number 3.) Geneva: Librairie Droz. 1972. Pp. 149. 22 plates.

Cyprus has been a culturally divided island since at least the late second millennium B.C., when Mycenaean migrants established a Greek presence. Throughout classical antiquity the other major population was Phoenician in